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- ***THE 2012 MILWAUKEE COUNTY BUDGET REPORT CARD***
- ***THE BIDDLE-LIPSCOMB READY TO WORK INITIATIVE ADOPTED***

News for Milwaukee County's 10th District

# THE BIDDLE

# BEAT

## Human Trafficking Task Force Established

### Supervisor Biddle Sponsors Critical Resolution

The Board of Supervisors has approved a resolution authored by Supervisor Biddle to create a county wide Task Force on Human Trafficking.

Members of Task Force will be appointed by the Board Chairman and include representation from the District Attorney's Office, Chief Judge, Milwaukee Police Department, Sheriff's Office, Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare, Milwaukee Public Schools, Office of Justice Assistance Human Trafficking Committee, ASHA Family Services, Benedict Center, Pathfinders, Meta House, and Milwaukee's LGBT community.

"We need to make sure that victims of human trafficking have access to resources at the County level to help them overcome these tragedies," Supervisor Biddle said.

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**December 2011**

### Eyon's Milwaukee County Board Committees

Health & Human Needs (Vice Chair)

Economic and Community Development

Judiciary, Safety and General Services

Task Force on Work Reform for Men



(continued from page 1)

The task force will convene for the first time this January. Supervisor Biddle would like all people interested in attending the meetings or being involved with the task force in any way to contact his office at 414-278-4265.

The resolution calls for the Task Force to report back to the Judiciary, Safety and General Services Committee by September 30, 2012 with recommendations on the following items:

- Appropriate service models, including culturally competent services
- Policies and practices, including changes to state laws, that protect both children and adults from trafficking
- Policies and practices on judicial and law enforcement intervention
- Job training and recovery for victims
- Establishing transitional housing or safe houses for victims

## **Sup. Biddle Honored for Outstanding Dedication to his Community**



Supervisor Biddle was honored for hard work and dedication to the 10<sup>th</sup> District by Andre Lee Ellis and the cast of Tellin' It Like It Tis on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Center.

# Biddle-Lipscomb Ready to Work Initiative Adopted by County Board

**Crucial Plan Will Train 1,000 and Place on Career Path**



Supervisor Biddle, joined by a coalition of Milwaukee County Supervisors and Milwaukee Area Labor Council Treasurer Sheila Cochran, rolled out the Biddle-Lipscomb Ready to Work Initiative on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at Big Step.

Supervisor Biddle scored a major victory when the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors overrode County Executive Chris Abele's veto of the Biddle-Lipscomb Ready to Work Initiative by a vote of 14-5. The initiative aims to create job access for Milwaukee County residents who have demonstrated prior success, such as attaining a high school diploma (or GED) and maintaining a valid Driver's License, yet cannot seem to reach the high-wage, family-supporting jobs that are currently available.

Training for the initiative will be provided by the Wisconsin Regional Training Partnership & BIG STEP in collaboration with Milwaukee Area Technical College, Milwaukee Public Schools, and Milwaukee Area Building and Construction Trades. It was a rare silver lining in what was a significantly difficult 2012 budget. Supervisor Biddle called Abele's veto of the initiative "disgusting," but vowed to work with the County Executive on implementation and oversight.

The initiative will provide training opportunities for work-ready individuals to gain access to County and private-sector positions with clear advancement opportunities. The partners involved will provide the educational training and on-the-job work experience needed to allow Milwaukee County residents to advance to the next level on the path to higher-level positions.

"We are providing leadership in the areas of jobs and economic development. We will train and place 1,000 people into jobs and career path opportunities," Supervisor Biddle added. "We will continue to fight for the people who need help the most. As a result, we will give people hope for a brighter future in Milwaukee County."



## Sup. Biddle Participates in *The Celebration of Autumn*

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, Supervisor Biddle was on hand for The Celebration of Autumn, a free event at Johnson's Park.

Activities included apple bobbing, sack races, a mummy game, pumpkin decorating, leaf projects, and bean & seed projects.

The event was co-sponsored by Supervisor Biddle, Johnsons Park Neighborhood Association, Alice's Garden, SeedFolks Youth Ministry, Neu Life Community Development, Walnut Way Conservation Corp, Center for Resilient Cities, and the Lindsay Heights Neighborhood Health Alliance.



Supervisor Biddle sack racing with neighborhood residents.

## Supervisor Biddle Participates in Civil Disobedience

### Say's "Enough is Enough" on the important issue of Jobs

On November 17th, a National Day of Action, Supervisor Biddle participated in a civil disobedience to highlight the economic emergency for the 99%. He pointed to staggering unemployment, low median incomes, and a lack of access to quality and affordable healthcare, among other reasons, for his participation.





"The real problem is that many leaders in Milwaukee don't understand the voices of a frustrated generation who have been written off and ignored," said Supervisor Biddle.

Supervisor Biddle was the only current elected official who stood up with the protestors.








Supervisor Biddle braved the cold along with hundreds of others in the "Occupy" movement on the North Ave. bridge to send a message.

## 2012 Budget Report Card

Budget & Policy Issues	Co. Executive Abele	Milwaukee County Board	Co. Supervisor Biddle
 <b>Jobs/Economic Development</b>	Proposed to use up to \$5 Million to establish and fund the Milwaukee County Economic Development Corporation, a separate nonprofit corporation, which would be directed by an outside board including elected officials, appointees of the County Executive, and selected business representatives.	Rejected the CEX proposal and instead adopted the Biddle-LIPSCOMB Ready to Work initiative (\$1M) to invest in workforce development and training and funded an Economic Development Fund (\$1M) to invest in business start-up, retention, and growth. Both initiatives are funded from land sales without a tax levy impact.	Co-Sponsor of the Amendment. Funding Vetoed. (Veto was overridden 15-4.) Amendment ADOPTED!
 <b>Parks</b>	CUT the Parks Department by nearly \$3.5 million but increased revenue projections despite a history of falling short of past and current targets. The result is the proposed layoff of 55 people.	(1) Increased parks seasonal staff hours from 366,683 to 411,446 for an expenditure increase of \$500,000. (2) Rejected a proposal to add even more hours at a cost of \$999,010.	(1) Voted FOR the partial restoration of seasonal staffing for the parks department (2) Voted AGAINST the larger restoration of seasonal staff because it simply costs too much.
 <b>Transit /Paratransit</b>	<b>Proposed massive transit cuts due to cuts in state transit aid. Applied for temporary new federal aid that can delay the cuts. Proposed significant fare increases for elderly and disabled paratransit riders.</b>	<b>(1) Removed budget language that specified deep cuts in transit. Any future route cuts or modifications need further debate. (2) Implemented a smaller increase in the paratransit fare.</b>	<b>(1) Voted to remove references to specific transit cuts. (2)Voted FOR a smaller paratransit fee increase of \$.75 to \$4.00 each way. AMENDMENTS ADOPTED!</b>
 <b>Public Safety</b>	<b>Slashed the Sheriff's Department budget by \$14.7 million and claimed that it would not impact public safety. Proposed changes would have eliminated 240 positions including an estimated 133 deputy sheriffs.</b>	<b>(1) Restored some of the funding to preserve deputies, retain critically important medical staff, and implement needed reforms. (2) Stipulated that money saved by health and pension concessions by deputies will be used to preserve remaining deputy positions that are scheduled for layoff.</b>	Voted FOR the amendment. VETOED. (Veto overridden 19-0.) Amendment ADOPTED!

## 2012 Budget Report Card

Budget & Policy Issues	Co. Executive Abele	Milwaukee County Board	Co. Supervisor Biddle
 <b>Emergency Medical Services</b>	<b>Eliminated the full \$3 million payment to municipalities for paramedic services. The EMS program is a premier example of regional cooperation.</b>	<b>Restored half of the EMS funding - \$1.5 million. Changed the distribution formula to recognize the higher population of Milwaukee and encourage successful consolidated services such as those in the North Shore.</b>	Voted FOR Amendment. Formula change and funding restoration was vetoed. (Formula change veto was sustained 9-10. Funding restoration veto was overridden 19-0.) Funding portion of amendment ADOPTED!
 <b>Privatization of Services</b>	<b>To privatize security guards at designated county facilities.</b>	To employ security guards in-house with living wages and benefits, rather than using privatized workers, at County facilities.	Sponsor of the Amendment. Amendment ADOPTED!
 <b>Employee Healthcare</b>	<b>Proposed that employees and retirees pay between 29-34% of their healthcare through higher premiums, deductibles, co-pays, and drug costs. This would transfer about \$25 Million in costs from Milwaukee County to our employees and retirees.</b>	<b>Increased total employee paid share of healthcare from 12.6% to 25%. This is more than most public sector employees and more comparable to the private sector. Premiums would increase at a more modest rate but most other changes still apply.</b>	Voted FOR the Amendment
 <b>Revitalization of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Center</b>	<b>No Proposal</b>	<b>Offered an amendment to provide \$2 million to repair portions of the HVAC systems at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Kosciuszko Community Centers.</b>	Sponsor of the Amendment. (Vetoed. Veto sustained 11-8) Amendment Failed.
 <b>Racial fairness on county contract allocations</b>	<b>No Proposal</b>	Offered amendment to develop a method for collecting data on racial and gender breakdowns of all contract employees working on Milwaukee County construction or maintenance projects.	Sponsor of the Amendment. AMENDMENT ADOPTED!